

The original documents are located in Box 428, folder “Bryant, Paul W. "Bear"” of the White House Central Files - Name Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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EXECUTIVE

5

TR1 -
GJ2
PP13-6
MA2/ni*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MARGE WICKLEIN

FROM: LCOL ROBERT BLAKE B

*filed
8/20/75*

The President received several gifts during the Coach of the Year Banquet on January 9, 1975. These gifts were: an autographed football from the Eastman Kodak Company; an autographed book from Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401; and the Tuss McLaughry Award plaque from the American Football Coaches Association. Thank-you letters have been forwarded by the Advance Office on all these items except the autographed book.

Per the President's request, these items were placed in his new study.



RECEIVED
JUL 21 1975
CENTRAL FILES

| Name | Date |
|------------------|---------|
| LIZ ONE. 11/E.W. | 12-2-76 |
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MEL

March 17, 1975

Dear Messrs. Bryant and Boyd:

The President has asked me to reply to your letter requesting his autograph on a piece of wood to raise funds for the Children's Center of Montgomery.

At President Ford's direction I am returning the autographed plaque to you with his very best wishes for a successful auction.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Mildred Leonard
Personal Assistant
to the President

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and
Major Stuart R. Boyd
P. T. O.
310 North Madison Terrace
Montgomery, Alabama 36107

ML:gct

10



PTO parent
teacher
organization

Children's Center of Montgomery

310 NORTH MADISON TERRACE • MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36107

27 *and*
c/s 3
February 28, 1975

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Ford,

We need your autograph on the enclosed piece of wood. Similar plaques are being sent to distinguished persons throughout the country and these plaques will be assembled into a parquet table. This table will be sold at auction in the spring and all proceeds will be donated to the Children's Center of Montgomery. *now*

The Children's Center is a school that serves mentally retarded, deaf, learning disabled and emotionally disturbed children. The school is nonprofit and is financed by federal, state and local monies, as well as donations. Our PTO is attempting to raise much needed funds to obtain more staff and equipment in order to expand and enrich the existing program.

We would be honored to have your name join those plaques already returned to help our table and our children grow. Please sign with a ballpoint pen and return in the enclosed envelope.

With sincere thanks,

Paul W. Bryant

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant
Honorary Project Chairman

Stuart R. Boyd

Major Stuart R. Boyd
PTO Project Chairman



May 22, 1975

GENERAL
GT2
BES-3
NESSEN, RONALD H. /A*

Dear Alan:

I have passed along Bear Bryant's book. I am sure he'll enjoy it since he is both a football fan and a friend of Bear Bryant's.

Cindy and I enjoyed the chance to talk to you and your wife the other night at the Kennedy Center. I hope we'll have a chance to see each other again.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the
President

Mr. Alan R. Ackerman
Editor
Financial World
919 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

RN/cg



RECEIVED
MAY 24 1975
CENTRAL FILES

10

Gift

October 14, 1975

Dear Coach Bryant:

Thank you very much for favoring me with one of your splendid "Bear" Bryant original hats. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, and you may be sure this gift is a welcome addition to my wardrobe.

With warm regards.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mr. Paul W. Bryant
Athletic Director and
Head Football Coach
University of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

GRF:MFW:MH:mh

GIFT



④

GENERAL
MEH
PR7-2
RE10

October 29, 1975

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your letter to the President endorsing the request of Mr. Fred Renneker III for him to speak with Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and the membership of the Monday Morning Quarterback Club of Birmingham, Alabama, by phone on November 17.

The President warmly appreciated this cordial request and your expression of interest but, unfortunately, it is not possible for him to accept. I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of Mr. William W. Nicholson's letter to Mr. Renneker in this regard.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Bill

William T. Kendall
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable James B. Allen
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Enclosure

bcc w/inc to Bill Nicholson - FYI

WTK:EF:jk
3

*Filed
Cen
IV/1/975/ST1
10/22/75*



RECEIVED
OCT 30 1975
GENERAL FILE

GENERAL

③

REIO

PR72

October 28, 1975

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your letter endorsing the request of Mr. Fred Renneker III for the President to speak with Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and the membership of the Monday Morning Quarterback Club of Birmingham, Alabama, by phone on November 17.

The President warmly appreciated this cordial request and your expression of interest but, unfortunately, it is not possible for him to accept. I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of Mr. William W. Nicholson's letter to Mr. Renneker in this regard.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Jack Edwards
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure

bcc w/inc to Bill Nicholson - FYI

MLF:EF:jk

7



RECEIVED

OCT 30 1975

Continued

GENERAL
BEID

File

October 28, 1975

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|-----------------------|
| ACTION |
| T/D _____ |
| SCHEDULE BD. _____ |
| DATE RECEIVED |
| OCT 30 1975 |
| MESSAGE _____ |
| SPEAKERS BUREAU _____ |
| OTHER <i>WTK</i> |
| APPOINTMENT OFFICE |

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your letter to the President endorsing the request of Mr. Fred Renneker III for him to speak with Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and the membership of the Monday Morning Quarterback Club of Birmingham, Alabama, by phone on November 17.

The President warmly appreciated this cordial request and your expression of interest but, unfortunately, it is not possible for him to accept. I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of Mr. William W. Nicholson's letter to Mr. Renneker in this regard.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable John Sparkman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc w/inc to Bill Nicholson - FYI

WTK:EF:jk



RECEIVED
OCT 30 1975
CENTRAL FILES

December 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Kirkpatrick:

Through the courtesy of Colonel Mann of Secretary Matthews' staff, the President has received your kind invitation to attend the annual banquet of The Birmingham Touchdown Club in January or February, 1976.

The President was very pleased to receive this cordial and appealing invitation and to have Members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation as well as so many other prominent Alabamians join with you in asking him to join you for your annual meeting. As much as he would like to have the opportunity to be your guest, the President has had such a heavy official schedule to develop for him throughout the early months of 1976 he reluctantly has concluded he will be unable to add a trip to Birmingham to his calendar.

The President wants you to know, though, he warmly thanks you for thinking of him and that he sends his kind regard and very best wishes to you and all those of the Birmingham Touchdown Club.

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson
Director
Scheduling Office

Mr. Don Kirkpatrick
Head Coach
Birmingham Touchdown Club
Post Office Box 711
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

WWN:mhr:jlc

cc: 2 cys Nancy Gemmell 12-29

12-29
Inf copies to:
✓ Col. Floyd M. Mann, Sp. Asst.
to Sec. NEW
✓ Don L. Hawkins
✓ Sen. James S. Allen
✓ H. Boyd McWhorter
✓ Ralph Jordan
✓ Paul "Bear" Bryant
✓ Sen. John Sparkman
✓ Cong. John H. Buchanan, Jr.
✓ Mayor George G. Siebels, Jr.



DEC 30 1975

CENTRAL FILES

TR 3/ST/76

October 11, 1976

Dear Bear:

It was a special pleasure to have you ride with me in the motorcade from Pascagoula to Mobile on September 26. I am grateful for your generous comments and your words of support at the rally at Bates Field Municipal Airport, and I want you to know how much your presence added to my enjoyment of this occasion.

With warm personal regards,

JERRY FORD

~~Mr. Paul W. Bryant~~
~~Head Football Coach~~
University of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

bc: Red Cavaney
GRF:MAF:ckb



"Mobile Press Register" Front Page
 Sunday, September 26, 1976

'Bear' to ride with Ford

By EARL SWEATT

Press Register Reporter

President Gerald R. Ford apparently decided to do something about the possibility of rain during his visit Sunday to Mobile. Paul "Bear" Bryant, legendary head football coach at the University of Alabama, will ride with

the President and be on the speaker's platform at Mobile Municipal Airport, according to a White House spokesman Saturday.

A spokesman said Bryant will ride with the President and Rep. Jack Edwards of Mobile in the President's car from Pascagoula, Miss., to Mobile Sunday afternoon.

Football fans, especially the followers of the Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama and opposing coaches, know of the legend that Bryant can walk on water as well as control the rain.

The weather forecast for the Mobile area Sunday calls for a cloudy sky with a possibility of rain. President Ford is scheduled to arrive at the airport at 7 p.m. for a 15-minute speech.

The President's motorcade will travel from Pascagoula's Beach Park, after Ford's address there, along U.S. 90 to Interstate 10 to Interstate 65 and west on Airport Boulevard to Mobile Municipal Airport.

White House Aide Hugh O'Neill said no stops are planned for Ford before he arrives at the airport. He is scheduled to depart from Mobile aboard Air Force One immediately after his speech, heading for Miami, Fla.

His flight will conclude a full day of campaigning which included a riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River at New Orleans, a church service in New Orleans' St. Louis Cathedral and appearances in Bay St. Louis, Miss.; Gulfport, Miss.; Biloxi, Miss.; Pascagoula, Miss., and Mobile.

Ford's visit to Mobile and the Deep

South gives an indication that he has not given up on the idea that his opponent in the November presidential election, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, can be beat in this area.

At the airport, Ford will be greeted by Gov. George C. Wallace, who has already endorsed the Democratic nominee Carter. Bryant, a member of the Athletics For Ford Committee, and Edwards, will stand alongside Ford on the speaker's platform, and the event will go on as planned even if rain or other inclement weather occurs, one official said.

"We may be physically dampened but our spirits won't be," said O'Neill about the plans for Mobile.

The gates for the public at the west end of the airport terminal will open at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m. featuring the Azalea Trail Court, the Shaw High School Band, and the Davidson High School Band plus the Royal Street Seven.

No admission will be charged and free parking will be available in the soccer fields west of the terminal entrance road.

Ford's schedule calls for a 12:30 p.m. appearance at the Bay St. Louis Library. He will next stop at the Gulfport Main Post Office on U.S. 49 at 13th Street.

A late luncheon at the Fisherman's Wharf is next on the schedule before touring a shrimp canning operation and docks area in Biloxi at 3:45 p.m. near the intersection of U.S. 90 and Oak Street.

At approximately 5 p.m. the President is expected at the Beach Park in Pascagoula.

At that point Bryant and Edwards will join the President in his limousine for the motorcade, consisting of at least seven press buses, communications vehicles and security vehicles.

At a news briefing Friday, O'Neill said "All expenses for the Ford visit are being paid by the President Ford Committee," and that salaries for White House personnel used in the visit are being paid by the government.



OCT 2 1976
 CENTRAL

CF gab

EXECUTIVE
TR3/ST1/76

12

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

9/25/76

6:30 pm

MEMORANDUM FOR:

EED CAVANEY

FROM:

WILBUR JONES

Mobile

W.

SUBJECT:

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE RE SPEAKERS

x Leo x Paul
Governor Wallace and Bear Bryant both indicated to me that they would be glad to make remarks from the speakers platform. As per our conversation on this subject yesterday, I agreed with both the Governor and Coach Bryant and they are being informed. Jack Edwards has also been informed.

My suggestion on this addition to the program is as follows (after arrival on platform):

- 7:20 pm : Introduction of Bear Bryant by Rep. Edwards.
- 7:20 pm : Remarks by Bear Bryant.
- 7:22 pm : Remarks conclude.
- 7:22 pm : Introduction of Governor Wallace by Rep. Edwards.
- 7:23 pm : Remarks by Governor Wallace.
- 7:25 pm : Remarks conclude.
- 7:25 pm : Introduction of the President by Rep. Edwards.
- 7:26 pm : Presidential remarks.
- FULL PRESS COVERAGE
- 7:34 pm : Remarks conclude.

(Remainder the same)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

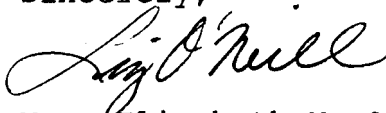
December 7, 1976

Dear Coach Bryant,

By way of introduction, I attended the University of Alabama '60-'64 and worked for Frank Taylor in Birmingham during the summers. Recently Mr. Taylor called me and said that he had asked Hoyt Harwell with the AP in Birmingham to send the enclosed photograph which Mr. Taylor thought the President would like to autograph for you. Mr. Taylor guessed correctly. The President was greatly pleased and hopes that you will enjoy having this as a memento of the rally in Mobile.

I might add that my husband, Hugh, who is also on the staff, was in Mobile for the rally and said you were terrific. Many thanks from all of your fans!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Elizabeth M. O'Neill
Director of Correspondence
for Mrs. Ford

Mr. Paul W. Bryant
Head Football Coach
University of Alabama
University, Alabama





To my good friend, "Bear" Bryant, in
appreciation and with warmest best wishes.

Jerry Ford

P.S. we damn near made it
over the goal line!



2

November 30, 1976

Dear Mr. Harwell:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing Mr. Frank M. Taylor with the photograph you took of Bear Bryant and the President. The President was pleased to receive this photograph and will autograph it for Coach Bryant.

With the President's appreciation and good wishes,

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

*
Mr. Hoyt Harwell
The Associated Press
News Post-Herald Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203



cc: Liz O'Neill ✓

RHN:LON:kc

7



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE

11/24

TO

Pat Strunk

GUIDANCE PLEASE

FYI

Can you pls.
do a Ron Neuber
on this?
Thanks.

LIZ O'NEILL
East Wing
X 2520

Dear Mr. Harwell,

I wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing me the photograph you took of Bear Bryant and myself.

Dear Mr. Harwell,

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing Mr. Frank K Taylor with the photograph you took of Bear Bryant and the President. The President was pleased to receive ~~this~~ photograph and will autograph it ~~for~~ *for* Coach Bryant.

With the President's appreciation and good wishes,

Sincerely,

RN

Note: Liz O'Neill has send the photograph to the Family Quarters for the President to autograph.

Kit - pls send a rec to Liz O'Neill.



a *Memo* from FRANK M. TAYLOR

November 4, 1976

Mrs. O'Neill:

We got this picture from Hoyt Harwell, correspondent with the Associated Press. Mr. Harwell asked that the Associated Press be given credit.

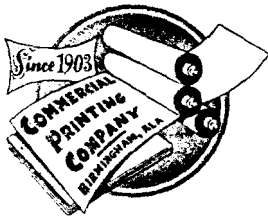
Mr. Taylor suggested that perhaps you would be kind enough to ask the President to write him a thank you note.

The address is:

Mr. Hoyt Harwell
The Associated Press
News Post-Herald Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Many, many thanks!

Jo
Jo Durdin for
Frank M. Taylor



For Fine Printing It's

COMMERCIAL PRINTING COMPANY

222 Sixth Avenue, S.W.

Phone 251-9203

Birmingham, Alabama 35202



December 15, 1976

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The President has asked me to thank you for your recent correspondence in which you recommend Mrs. Harriet Tillman for appointment to the ~~Developmental Disabilities~~ Committee, the President's Committee on Retardation and the Advisory Board to Handicapped and Retarded Individuals.

We certainly appreciate your bringing this recommendation to our attention.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Bennett
Director
Presidential Personnel Office

Mr. Paul Bryant
Athletic Director and
Head Football Coach
Department of Athletics
The University of Alabama
University, Alabama 35486

DPB:pav
DPB-20

